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Journal of Colonel George Washington, commanding a detachment of Virginia troops sent by Robert Dinwiddie, Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, across the Alleghany mountains, in 1754, etc. Edited with notes by J. M. TONER, M. D. Pp. 273. Price, \$5.00. Albany, N. Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1893.

Whenever Dr. Toner writes about Washington he has something to tell us that is sure to prove interesting and profitable reading. For so familiar has he made himself with the details of his hero's career that we may regard him as the Sparks of our time, with this difference: he has too great a reverence for his subject ever to tamper with the texts he publishes. The volume under consideration is the third in the series of Washington's journals which he is editing in his careful and painstaking manner. For the nearest approach to the original of this he has to rest satisfied with a garbled French translation of it, published in 1756, and designed to have political effect. The journal fell into French hands most probably, as Dr. Toner holds, at the battle of Great Meadows when, as Washington tells us, he lost all his papers. Dr. Toner, while not despairing that the original may still be in existence, gives us here a translation from the French version, and as it is only a fragment, ending abruptly on the twenty-seventh of June, he completes the narrative from original documents of Washington's own writing, down to his return to Williamsburg in the following July.

The journal tells the story of the preliminary skirmishes of the war that was to blot out the possessions of France from the map of America. While Colonel Fry was nominally in charge of the expedition against Fort Duquesne his illness put Major George Washington, just commissioned lieutenant-colonel, really in command, and with his two hundred and fifty men on April 2, 1754, he started from Alexandria, Va., at the head of the first body of American troops sent across the Alleghany mountains. Viewed in its best light it was hardly more than a marauding expedition whose object was to take possession and hold as much territory as possible. Washington records, while almost repeating the words of his instructions from Governor Dinwiddie, that he was sent "to help Captain Trent to build forts, and to defend the possessions of his majesty against the attacks and hostilities of the French."

We have space to do no more than mention that the expedition advanced and retreated with great caution and no little difficulty. That several battles, or rather skirmishes, took place and that, for lack of adequate reënforcements, Washington was finally forced to capitulate, with all the honors of war, at the Great Meadows where he had

thrown up the breastworks named by him Fort Necessity. The enterprise in itself was barren of results, but it served to render Washington familiar with the country, the knowledge of which he was soon to be called on to make use of, and to open the way for the final conquest of the territory. He learned also that the Indians were a not unimportant factor to be taken into consideration. Washington knew how to take the just measure of their protestations of friendship; that they were meant to draw from him the details of his plans to be in turn divulged to the French at the earliest opportunity. But he failed not to negotiate with them, liberally punctuating his speeches the while with gifts of wampum belts. A less cautious and judicious commander might have been misled by their intrigues. It is interesting to find him speaking of them, however, as "treacherous devils, . . . sent by the French to act as spies," and to note his gratification at their return "though not without some stories, prepared to amuse the French, which may be of service to make our designs succeed." Nor did he hesitate to enlist the services of those friendly to him and in turn to use them as spies upon the actions of the enemy.

Dr. Toner has done a most serviceable piece of work in thus presenting before us this material which, added to Gist's and Trent's journals, enables us to follow the history of the conquest of the West with considerable detail. In addition it is a valuable aid to understanding the development of Washington's character, for, although a mere youth, he had ample opportunity to exhibit some of those sterling qualities which served him in such good stead in the War for Independence. The appendices are of particular importance, especially the transcript of Washington's account with Virginia, rendered October, 1754. It enables Dr. Toner to fix the route of his march and gives almost conclusive evidence that the original of the journal was lost at the battle of the Great Meadows. The absence of a map from the volume is greatly to be regretted; and it would have been well, too, if Dr. Toner had calculated a little more upon his readers' intelligence. For then he would not have needed to overburden the book with so many unimportant notes, thereby making the reading of the journal itself a most difficult task.

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English History in Shakespeare's Plays. By BEVERLEY E. WARNER. Pp. x, 321. Price, \$1.75. New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1894.

If it be true, as Coleridge said, that "the people take their theology from Milton and their history from Shakespeare," this latter debt